Decline in water table

†253. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn towards continuously declining water table;

(b) if so, whether Government have takervany step for obtaining accurate information in this regard;

(c) whether Government are formulating any proposal to check the declining water table; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) As per the ground water resource assessment carried out in the year 2004 jointly by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and the States in 5723 ground water resource assessment units (block/mandal/taluka), significant decline in ground water level has been observed in some pockets of various States except in the North-Eastern States and in the States of Goa, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir. The CGWB monitors ground water levels on regional level through a country wide network of 15550 observation wells. The CGWB has constructed a total of 2239 purpose built piezometers to strengthen the ground water monitoring network. Out of these piezometers, 1200 piezometers have been fitted with Digital Water Level Recorders in order to get high frequency data.

(c) and (d) 'Water' being a State subject, necessary action to check declining water table is to be taken by the States. However, the Union Government/CGWB have also taken several remedial steps in this regard which *inter-alia* include the following:—

(i) The demarcate the areas where decline of ground water level is no continuous basis and identify areas feasible for recharge, a report titled 'Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water' has been prepared

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

which has identified a total of 4.5 lakh sq. km. area in the country needing artificial recharge of ground water. The documents has been circulated to all the States/UTs for appropriate action.

(ii) The CGWB has'circulated Mannual/Guide on techniques of Artificial Recharge to Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend of ground water levels.

(iii) CGWB promotes rain water harvesting by conducting mass awareness/training programmes and provides technical guidance to various Government and Non-Government agencies.

(iv) The CGWB has implemented 165 demonstrative recharge projects in various States under the central sector scheme on 'Study of recharge to ground water' during the IX Plan.

(v) Ministry of Water Resources has circulated a Model Bill to "Regulate and Control the Development and Management of Ground Water" to the States/Union Territories. The Model Bill has a separate chapter on 'Rain Water Harvesting for Ground Water Recharge'. The Bill also provides for imposition of stipulated conditions by the Municipal Corporations or other local authorities for providing roof top rain water harvesting structures in building plan in an area of 100 sq. m. or more, while according approval for cosntruction.

(vi) The Union Government has constituted "Artificial Recharge to Ground Water Advisory Council" in the Ministry of Water Resources with an objective to popularize the concept of artificial rechrage among all stake holders and its adoption. The Advisory Council has representation from various Ministries/Departments concerned with rain water harvesting, States/UTs, Financial Institutions, Industries/Public Undertakings as well as NGOs and renowned Subject Experts.

(vii) Ministry of Water Resources has requested other Central Ministries/ Departments of Railways, Defence, Posts, Telecommunications, Central Public Works Department and National Highways Authority of India to provide roof top rain water harvesting structures in the building under their control.

(viii) The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has directed the Chief Secretaries of the concerned States to take all measures to adopt

artificial recharge to ground water/promote rain water harvesting in all the Overexploited areas falling under their jurisdiction and ensure inclusion of rooftop rain water harvesting in the building bye-laws.

(ix) CGWA has notified 43 severaly Over-exploited aeas in the country for regulation of ground water development and management. The CGWA is also regulating development of ground water by new industries/projects in all Over-exploited/Critical areas. In these notified areas, installation of new ground water abstraction structures is not permitted without prior specific approval of the Authority.

(x) CGWA has also notified 65 Over-exploited areas in various States, for registration of ground water abstraction structures, which showed a very steep decline in ground water levels and required action for regulation

(xi) Under the ongoing scheme of Ground Water Surveys, Exploration and Investigation, 13 areas in the States of Andhra Pradesh. Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have been identified for implementation of artificial recharge and rain water harvesting at a total cost of Rs 12 crores during the year 2006-07

(xii) CGWA has issued directions to Group Housing Societies, Institutes. Hotels, Industries, Farm Houses, etc. in the notified areas of Delhi, Faridabad, Gurgaon and Ghaziabad and other areas of NCT Delhi where ground water table is below 8 metres from ground surface, to adopt rain water harvesting system.

Increase in Irrigation potential

254. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether net sown area in the country is 132.8 million hectare and net irrigated area is 53.07 million hectare;

(b) whether about sixty per cent of the net sown area is dependent upon the vagaries of the Monsoon rains;

(c) if so. what steps are intended to be taken to improve the scenario and to increase the irrigation potential having assured water supply; and

(d) what is the future road-map-thereof?